

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 3, 1848.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, from the Committee on Claims, made the following

REPORT :

[To accompany bill S. No. 240.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of the executive committee of the American Colonization Society, respectfully report:

That the documents herewith filed, marked Nos. 1, 2, and 3, contain all the information in regard to the amount expended by the Colonization Society, in taking care of the recaptured Africans on board the Pons, which the committee have been able to obtain. The petition sets out fully the grounds upon which the society asks the government to make them some remuneration. These documents, when printed with the petition, will fairly represent the case. The committee are of opinion that a liberal construction of the act of Congress of March 3, 1819, requires the government to support recaptured Africans for a reasonable time after they shall have been landed in Liberia. It would be unbecoming the dignity and resources of the government to throw the expense exclusively upon a benevolent association, and thereby make the operations of the government onerous upon the benevolent exertions of private individuals. The committee, therefore, report a bill for the relief of the society.

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